



ACCESS HEALTH SYSTEMS



Hepatitis B Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION	<p>Hepatitis B is a serious disease caused by a virus that attacks the liver. The virus, which is called hepatitis B virus (HBV), can cause lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer, liver failure and death.</p> <p>Hepatitis B vaccine is available for all age groups to prevent hepatitis B infection.</p>
TRANSMISSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurs when blood from an infected person enters the body of a person who is not infected. • HBV is spread through having sex with an infected person without using a condom (the efficacy of latex condoms in preventing infection with HBV is unknown, but their proper use might reduce transmission). • By sharing drugs, or needles with an infected person. • Through accidental needle stick or sharps exposure on the job. • From an infected mother to her baby during birth. <p>Persons at risk for HBV infection might also be at risk for infection with Hepatitis C virus (HCV) or HIV.</p>
RISK GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons with multiple sex partners or diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease • Men who have sex with men • Sexual contacts of infected persons • Injection-drug users • Household contacts of chronically infected persons • Healthcare and Public Safety Workers with exposure to blood • Infants born to infected mothers • Infants/children of immigrants from areas with high rates of HBV infection
VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepatitis B vaccine has been available since 1982 • Routine vaccination of 0-18 year olds • Vaccination of risk groups of all ages
VACCINATION SCHEDULE	<p>For adults age 20 years and older: 3 Doses - Given at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0 month 1 month after first dose 5 months after second dose
CONTRAINDICATIONS TO VACCINE	<p>A serious allergic reaction to a prior dose of hepatitis B vaccine or a vaccine component is a contraindication to further doses of hepatitis B vaccine. The recombinant vaccines that are licensed for use in the United States are synthesized by using common bakers' yeast, into which a plasmid containing the gene for HBsAg has been inserted. Persons allergic to yeast should not be vaccinated with vaccines containing yeast.</p>
POST VACCINATION TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post vaccination testing is recommended for persons whose medical management depends on knowledge of their immune status. This includes any Healthcare or Public Safety Worker who may come into contact with blood. • To test for immunity, a blood test is done called a hepatitis B titer. This should be completed no earlier than 1-2 months after the third vaccine dose has been administered.

